

## WE CLAIM:

1. A security alarm system, comprising
- one or more peripheral units, and
- a main control unit comprising an RF transceiver for communicating with the one or more peripheral units, whereby the main control unit receives a signal from the one or more peripheral units to indicate an alarm condition, and a digital communications port,
- wherein the main control unit can be connected to a digital processing device through the digital communications port, whereby data entered into the digital processing device programs the main control unit.
2. The security alarm system of claim 1 wherein the main control unit communicates data to the one or more peripheral devices to configure and control said peripheral devices.
3. The security alarm system of claim 1 wherein the main control unit comprises a communicator for controlling a transfer of data between the system and a remote location over a communications link.
4. The security alarm system of claim 1 wherein a keypad or a display, or both, for entering information into and displaying information from the main control unit are contained in a remote unit comprising a cordless telephone handset.
5. The security alarm system of claim 1 wherein in response to an indication of an alarm condition by a sensor, the main control unit requests a status signal from the sensor to verify the alarm condition.
6. The security alarm system of claim 1 wherein in response to an indication of an alarm condition by a sensor, the main control unit processes a status signal from one or more neighboring sensors to verify the alarm condition.
7. The security alarm system of claim 1 wherein the main control unit is programmable via a keypad built into the main control unit.

8. The security alarm system of claim 1 wherein the transceiver communicates at 2.4 GHz.
9. The security alarm system of claim 1 wherein the peripheral units include sensors comprising one or more of door/window sensors, PIR motion sensors, glass break detectors, environmental sensors (temperature sensors, moisture detectors etc.), smoke detectors, combustion gas detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, alarm indicators
- 10 The security alarm system of claim 9 wherein each peripheral unit is characterized by a unique preprogrammed ID code.
- 11 A method of programming a security alarm system comprising one or more peripheral units and a main control unit comprising an RF transceiver for communicating with the one or more peripheral units, whereby the main control unit receives data from the one or more peripheral units to indicate an alarm condition, and a digital communications port, comprising the steps of
- a. connecting the main control unit to a digital processing device through the digital communications port, and
  - b. entering data into the digital processing device to program the main control unit.
12. The method of claim 11 including the step of communicating data from the main control unit to the one or more peripheral devices to configure and control said peripheral devices.
13. The method of claim 11 including the step of controlling a transfer of data between the system and a remote location over a communications link.
14. The method of claim 11 wherein a keypad or a display, or both, for entering information into and displaying information from the main control unit are contained in a remote unit comprising a cordless telephone handset.
15. The method of claim 11 including the step of, in response to an indication of an alarm condition by a sensor, requesting a status signal from the sensor to verify the alarm condition.

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16. The method of claim 11 including the step of, in response to an indication of an alarm condition by a sensor, processing a status signal from one or more neighboring sensors to verify the alarm condition.
17. The method of claim 11 wherein the main control unit is programmable via a keypad built into the main control unit.
18. The method of claim 11 wherein the wireless transceiver communicates at 2.4 GHz.
19. The method of claim 11 wherein peripheral units include sensors comprising one or more of door/window sensors, PIR motion sensors, glass break detectors, environmental sensors (temperature sensors, moisture detectors etc.), smoke detectors, combustion gas detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, alarm indicators.
20. The method of claim 11 wherein each peripheral unit is characterized by a unique preprogrammed ID code.

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